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FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES
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THE LOST WORLD
STAR PIRATE
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A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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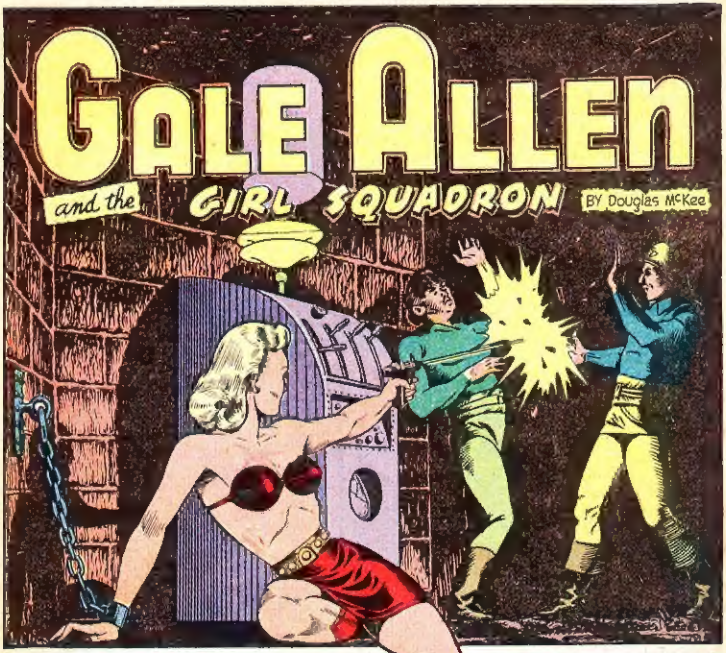
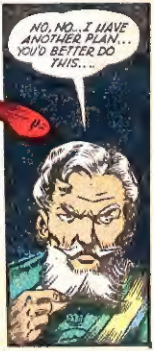
GALE ALLEN and the GIRL SQUADRON

BY Douglas McKee

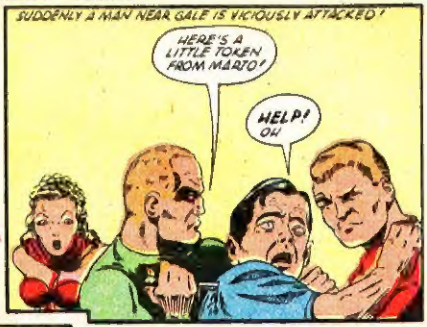


BLINDING DEATH! STRIKING DOWN THOUSANDS ON OTHER PLANETS, IT HAS ALREADY ATTACKED THE OUTPOSTS OF VANAM. FIRST, TOTAL BLINDNESS...THEN, A FEW SHORT HOURS LATER, SUDDEN, HORRIBLE DEATH!

GALE, MARTO IS COMING TO VANAM IN HIS GOLDEN COMET SPACE-LINER TO INVESTIGATE THE BLIND DEATH! HE HAS MUCH WEALTH AND MANY POLITICAL ENEMIES. I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO HIM.
THEN, VICEROY, PERHAPS I'D BETTER DOUBLE MY SPACE PATROL!



LATER, GALE CIRCULATES AMONG THE WAITING CROWD!
I'M NOT SURE THE VICEROYS IDEA WAS THE BEST THING. THIS FLOWER GIRL DISGUISE ISN'T MUCH!


SUDDENLY A MAN NEAR GALE IS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED!
HERE'S A LITTLE TOKEN FROM MARTO!
HELP! OH

THE VANAM POLICE QUICKLY CORNER THE KILLERS
BUT, OFFICER, WE ARE SECRET AGENTS OF MARTO. THIS MAN IS ONE OF HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES!
YES! WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO ASSASSINATE MARTO WHEN HE LANDED!
YES?

BUT GALE IS SUSPICIOUS.
I DON'T LIKE THIS! THAT LOOKED MORE LIKE A VICIOUS KILLING TO ME. I'D BETTER LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MARTO!
SO YOU SEE WE COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!
PERHAPS IT WAS BETTER YOU KILLED HIM. IF HE HAD EVER SHOT.

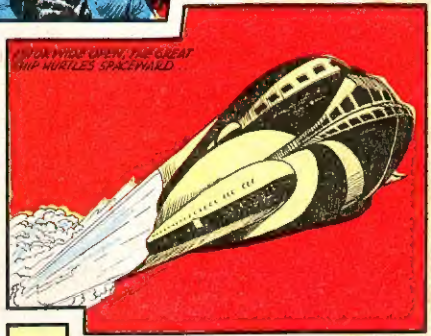
A FEW MINUTES LATER THE GREAT GOLDEN COMET STRATO-LINER DEACCLIVATES FOR LANDING ON THE SPACE RAMP.

MARTO ALIGHTS AND HAILS THE ASSEMBLED SCIENTISTS AND DIGNITARIES..
GREETINGS! GENTLEMEN, I THINK THAT I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU ABOUT THE BLINDING DEATH! IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND AS TO BOARD MY HUMBLE CRAFT.

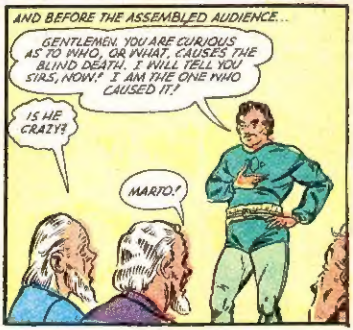
I'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE OUTER AMBIENCE. BUT FIRST, I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE ALL HEAVY METAL OBJECTS AT THE DOOR. YOU SEE, MY DIRECTIONAL GRAVITY COMPASS IS EASILY UPSET BY METAL. I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND..
OF COURSE, MARTO.!

GALE RUSHES UP TO THE VISITING DIGNITARY...
SUCH A HANDSOME MAN AS YOURSELF NEEDS A FLOWER! BUT, THE OTHERS... I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE FLOWERS ALSO.
GO AHEAD, MY DEAR. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM ON MY SHIP FOR A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!

THE LAST TO BOARD THE SPACE-LINER, MARTO PASSES A JUGGLER..
HA! HA! VERY AMUSING! COME ALONG MY GOOD MAN. PERHAPS YOU CAN ENTERTAIN MY GUESTS. LATER, THEY WILL NEED AMUSING!


AND NOW OVER THERE, THE GREAT SHIP HURTLES SPACEWARD..

INSIDE, THE GUESTS CLIMB THE NARROW CATWALKS LEADING TO THE MAIN CHAMBER..

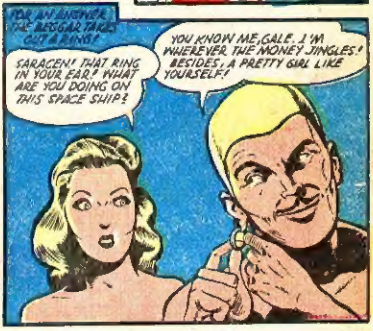

AND BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED AUDIENCE...
GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE CURIOUS AS TO WHO, OR WHAT, CAUSES THE BLIND DEATH. I WILL TELL YOU SIRS, NOW! I AM THE ONE WHO CAUSED IT!
IS HE CRAZY?
MARTO!

HOLD THEM, GUARDS! WE HAVE THEIR GUNS BY A VERY NEAT TRICK... HA! AND NOW I'LL PROJECT THE GERM FOUND IN THE BODY OF A BLINDING DEATH VICTIM! LOOK!
GET BACK, OR THIS RAY GUN WILL...
AND IN THIS PROJECTED PICTURE YOU SEE THE CONTENTS OF THE MACHINE ABOVE ME! DO YOU NOTICE THE SIMILARITY OF THE GERMS!
MARTO HANDLES THE LONG TUBE FROM THE WEIRD MACHINE ABOVE HIS HEAD.
IF THERE IS STILL ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MINDS, I WILL GIVE YOU A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION! GUARDS! BRING ME A PRISONER!
COME, COME, DO NOT STRUGGLE SO. A FEW WHIFFS OF THE BLINDING DEATH GERMS, THEN...
STOP! PLEASE DON'T...
BUT SUDDENLY...
EVEN I CANNOT STAND THIS!
GALE AND THE JUGGLER WHIP OUT CONCEALED RAY GUNS!

THEY STRUGGLE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS..
TASTES SO GOOD I'LL TAKE ANOTHER BITE!

BUT SUPERIOR NUMBERS QUICKLY OVERPOWER THEM.
FOOLS! I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU LATER! GUARD, THROW THEM INTO THE COSMO-RAY PRISON. I HAVE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS THESE SCIENTISTS MUST SIGN. AND IF THEY SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN NEAR THE RAMP TODAY, I AM SURE THEY WILL DO AS I ASK

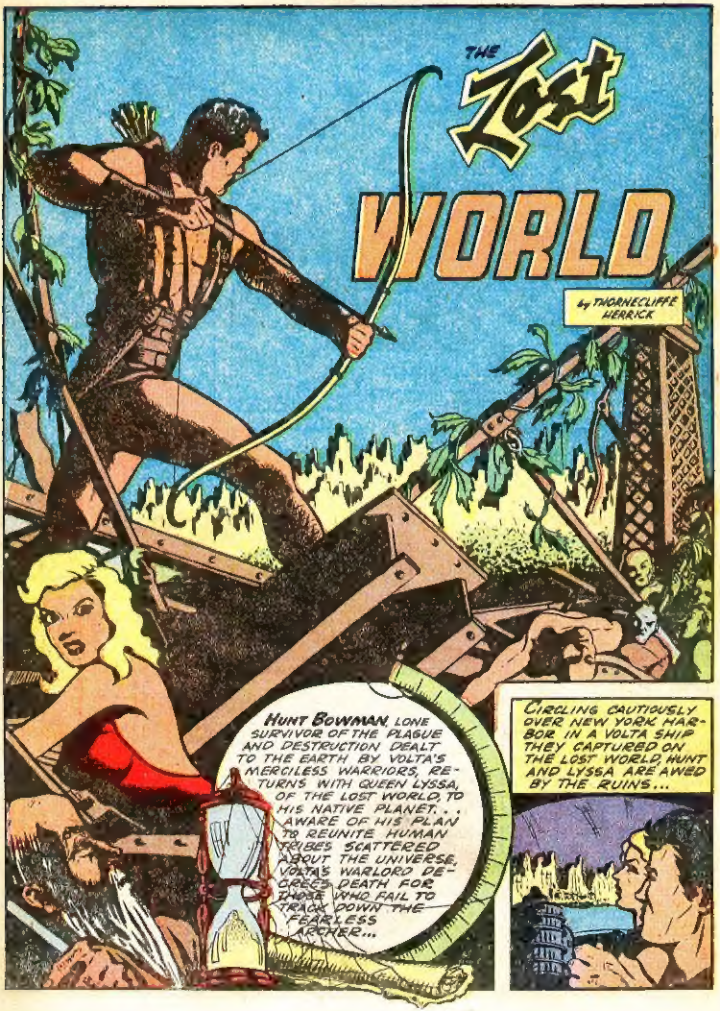
WELL, GALE, OUR LITTLE FIGHT WASN'T SO SUCCESSFUL. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
GALE! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHOEVER YOU ARE, THOUGH THANKS FOR THE HELP. BUT WHO ARE YOU?

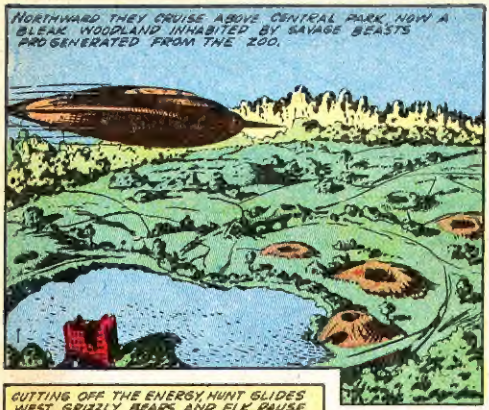

FOR AN ANSWER, THE BEGGAR TAKES OUT A RING!
SARACEN! THAT RING IN YOUR EAR? WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS SPACE SHIP?
YOU KNOW ME, GALE. I'M WHEREVER THE MONEY JINGLES! BESIDES, A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOURSELF!

WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING QUICKLY! NO TELLING WHAT THAT MADMAN MARJO IS UP TO!
I'LL TRY MY BELT. THE METAL MAY SHORT-CIRCUIT THE COSMO-RAYS!

GALE HURLS THE BELT IN THE PATH OF THE BRILLIANT RAYS. SUDDENLY..
THERE! THAT DID IT. LET'S GO!

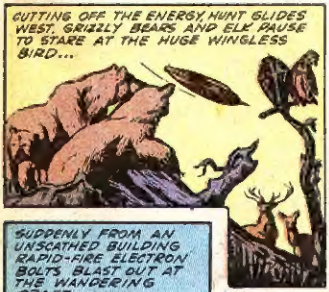
FASTER, GALE! OH, OH... TWO GUARDS ARE AFTER US. DUCK BEHIND THAT BEND AND I'LL GIVE THEM A TASTE OF SARACEN MAGIC!
SARACEN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE OTHER ONE!
DON'T BOTHER! ONE DOWN AND ONE TO GO!
I'VE GOT HIM, GALE! HE'S THAT LAST ONE IN MY WAY AND HE WON'T STOP ME! NOW TO FIND THAT ARSENAL!
OH..W!
LUCKY WE FOUND THIS PLACE SO QUICKLY! NOW IF WE CAN ONLY GET THESE RAY GUNS TO THE SCIENTISTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THEY BURST INTO THE MAIN HALL.
HERE YOU ARE, BOYS! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THESE PLAYTHINGS!
THAT'S ALL FOR YOU, MARTO? GET AWAY FROM THAT TUBE!
CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNAWARE BY THE SURPRISE ATTACK OF GALE AND SARACEN, MARTO AND HIS MEN ARE NO MATCH FOR THE ENRAGED SCIENTISTS...
BUT AS SARACEN STARTS TO LEAVE...
STOP! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
WHY, JUST LOOK AT MY SKULL CAP. I'M NOTHING BUT A HARMLESS OLD BEGGAR! AND IF GALE ALLEN IS THROUGH WITH ME I THOUGHT TO REPORT TO CAPTAIN SARACEN THAT MARTO'S WEALTH IS A MYTH!
SO LONG, BEGGAR! I'VE LOST YOU THIS TIME! OR HAVE I...?
GALE ALLEN MEETS CAPTAIN SARACEN IN A SURPRISING ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

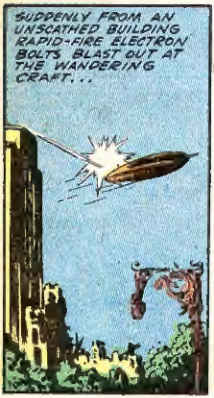

THE
Lost
WORLD
by THORNECLIFFE HERRICK
HUNT BOWMAN, LONE SURVIVOR OF THE PLAGUE AND DESTRUCTION DEALT TO THE EARTH BY VOLTA'S MERCILESS WARRIORS, RETURNS WITH QUEEN LYSSA, OF THE LOST WORLD, TO HIS NATIVE PLANET... AWARE OF HIS PLAN TO REUNITE HUMAN TRIBES SCATTERED ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, VOLTA'S WARLORD DECREES DEATH FOR THOSE WHO FAIL TO TRACK DOWN THE FEARLESS ARCHER...
CIRCLING CAUTIOUSLY OVER NEW YORK HARBOR IN A VOLTA SHIP THEY CAPTURED ON THE LOST WORLD, HUNT AND LYSSA ARE AWED BY THE RUINS...


NORTHWARD THEY CRUISE ABOVE CENTRAL PARK, NOW A BLEAK WOODLAND INHABITED BY SAVAGE BEASTS PROGENERATED FROM THE ZOO.

LYSSA FEARS IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS SPOT TO LAND, SO HUNT SWINGS THE SHIP AROUND.

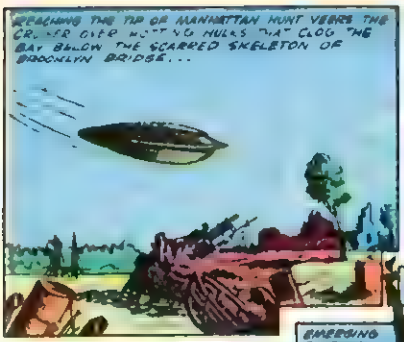
LIONS BASKING BEFORE THEIR DEN ON THE STUMP OF A FALLEN SKYSCRAPER, ROAR DEFIANTLY AS THEY PASS...


CUTTING OFF THE ENERGY, HUNT GLIDES WEST. GRIZZLY BEARS AND ELK PAUSE TO STARE AT THE HUGE WINGLESS BIRD...


SUDDENLY FROM AN UNSCATHED BUILDING RAPID-FIRE ELECTRON BOLTS BLAST OUT AT THE WANDERING CRAFT...

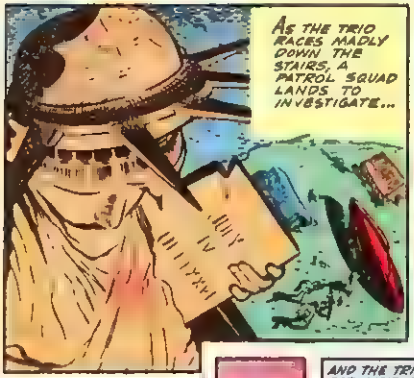
THE PALE MAN WHO JOINED HUNT ON THE LOST WORLD, SCREAMS IN TERROR AS THE SHIP LURCHES..

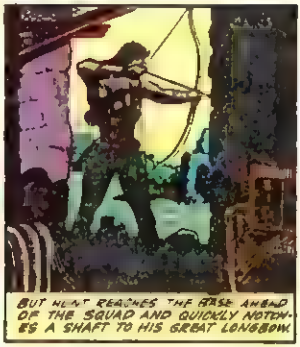
LIKE A GREAT BULLET THE SPACE CRAFT SWEEPS DOWN DESOLATE EIGHTH AVENUE...

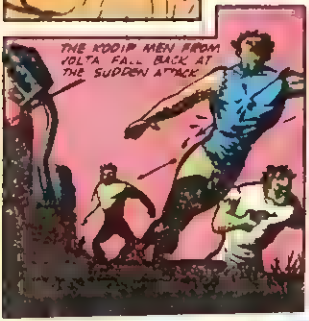

REACHING THE TIP OF MANHATTAN HUNT VEERS THE CRAFT DEEP NOTING HULKS THAT CLOG THE BAY BELOW THE SCARRED SKELETON OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

HUNT DISCOVERS AN OPEN DOOR LEADING TO A STAIRWAY, AND URGES THE OTHERS TO JOIN HIM...

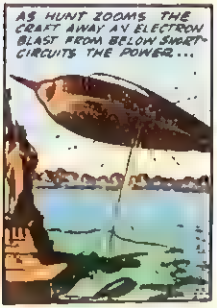
LYSSA WARNS THAT IT'S A VOLTA PATROL COMING TO CAPTURE THEM...


AS THE TRIO RACES MADLY DOWN THE STAIRS, A PATROL SQUAD LANDS TO INVESTIGATE...


BUT HUNT REACHES THE BASE AHEAD OF THE SQUAD AND QUICKLY NOTCHES A SHAFT TO HIS GREAT LONGBOW.

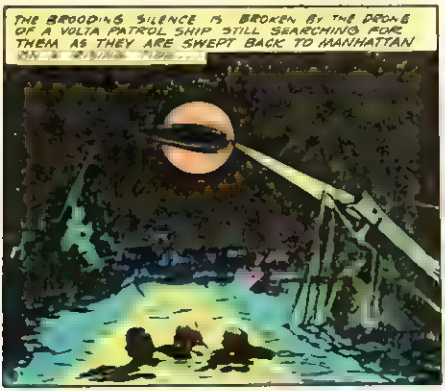

THE KOOIP MEN FROM VOLTA FALL BACK AT THE SUDDEN ATTACK.

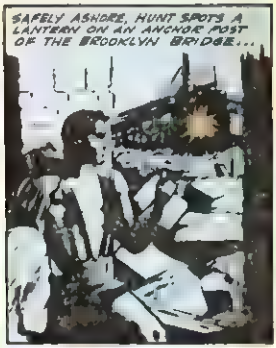
AND THE TRIO RUSHES FOR THEIR SHIP AS THE SECOND SHIP LANDS.


AS HUNT ZOOMS THE CRAFT AWAY AN ELECTRON BLAST FROM BELOW SHORT-CIRCUITS THE POWER...

THE CONTROLS IN A VAIN EFFORT TO HOLD THE SHIP ALOFT..

AT THE LAST MOMENT HUNT OPENS THE AIR LOCK AND THE TRIO DIVES CLEAR...


THE BROODING SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE DRONE OF A VOLTA PATROL SHIP STILL SEARCHING FOR THEM AS THEY ARE SWEPT BACK TO MANHATTAN


SAFELY ASHORE, HUNT SPOTS A LANTERN ON AN ANCHOR POST OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

THEY ADVANCE QUIETLY UP THE RAMP HOPEFUL OF TAKING A SENTRY POST BY SURPRISE

THEIR AMAZEMENT AN EARTHMAN APPEARS TO GREET THEM.

BACKING TOWARD A CLEVERLY CONCEALED DOOR, THE HERMIT BIDS THEM TO ENTER...

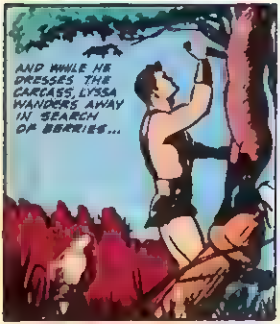
MAYSON THE HERMIT WHISTLES IN WONDER AS HUNT RELATES THE R ADVENTURES AND THE SAGA OF THE LOST WORLD.

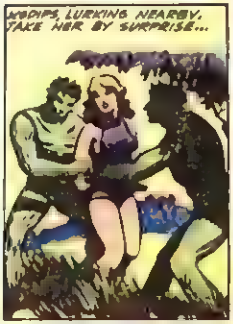
EXCUSING HIS SCANT LARDER MAYSON SAYS IF ALL GOES WELL THEY CAN STALK A DEER ON THE MORROW...

AT DAWN HUNT EMERGES TO GAZE ACROSS AT A MARSH WHERE ONCE STOOD BROOKLYN'S PIERS AND WARE-HOUSES ..

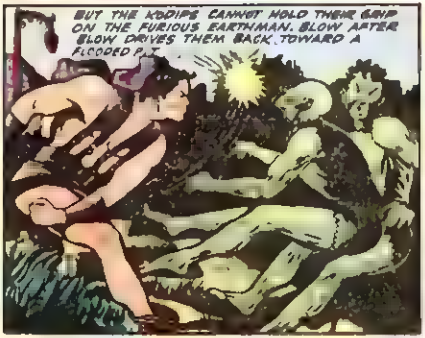
HUNT AND LYSSA DE-PART FOR THE CHASE, WARNING MAXSON TO KEEP WATCH FOR VOLTA PATROLS.

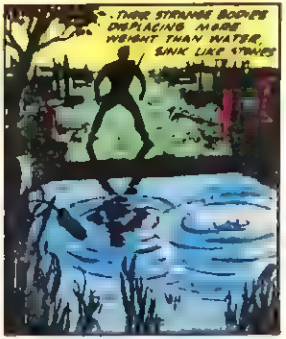
IN THE MARSH, HUNT SCORES A DIFFICULT SHOT..

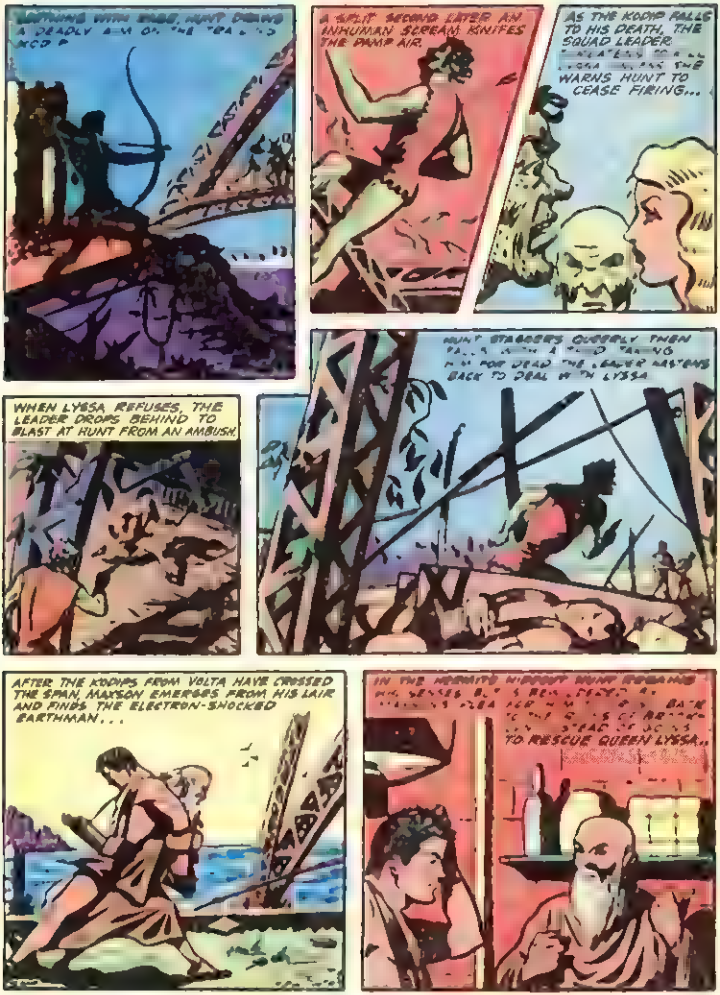

AND WHILE HE DRESSES THE CARCASS, LYSSA WANDERS AWAY IN SEARCH OF BERRIES...


KODIPS, LURKING NEARBY, TAKE HER BY SURPRISE...

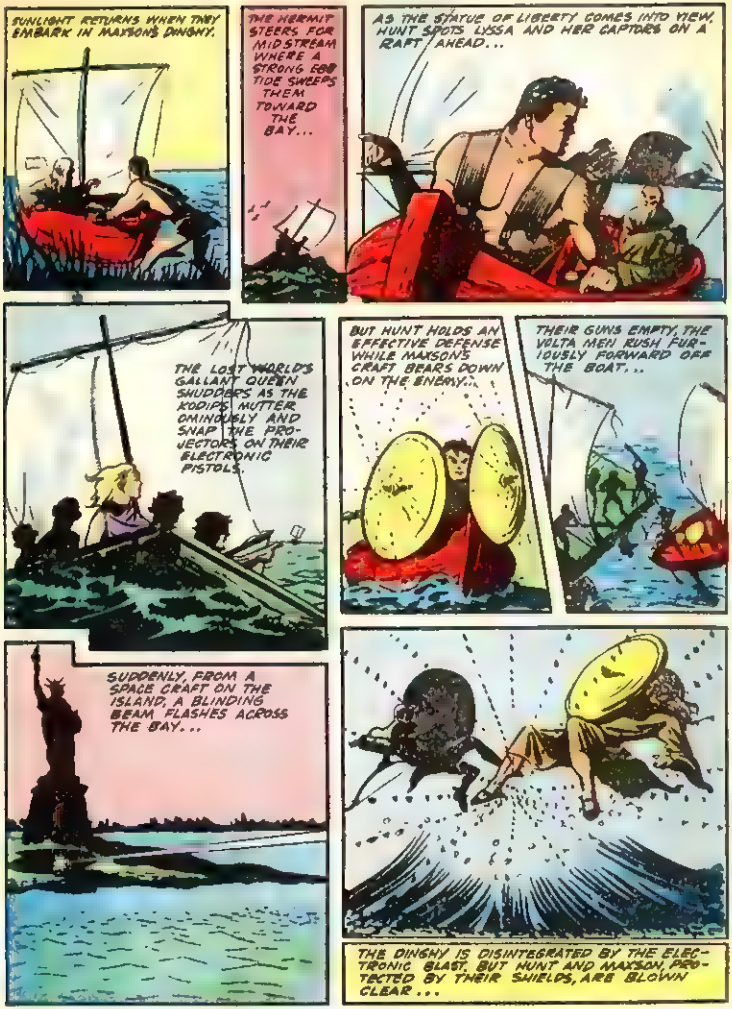
AN INSTANT LATER AS LYSSA'S WARNING CRY REACHES HUNT, HE TOO IS SEIZED

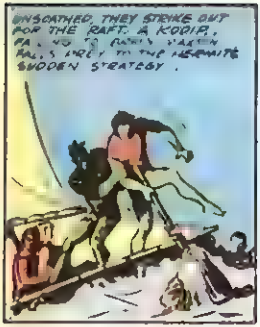

BUT THE KODIPS CANNOT HOLD THEIR GRIP ON THE FURIOUS EARTHMAN. BLOW AFTER BLOW DRIVES THEM BACK TOWARD A FLOODED PIT.


.. THESE STRANGE BODIES DISPLACING MORE WEIGHT THAN WATER, SINK LIKE STONES


A SPLIT SECOND LATER AN INHUMAN SCREAM KNIFES THE DAMP AIR.
AS THE KOORI FALLS TO HIS DEATH, THE SQUAD LEADER
WARNS HUNT TO CEASE FIRING...
HUNT STAGGERS QUICKLY THEN
FOR DEAD THE LEADER WARNS
BACK TO DEAL WITH LYSSA
WHEN LYSSA REFUSES, THE LEADER DROPS BEHIND TO BLAST AT HUNT FROM AN AMBUSH.
AFTER THE KOORIS FROM VOLTA HAVE CROSSED THE SPAN MAYSON EMERGES FROM HIS LAIR AND FINDS THE ELECTRON-SHOCKED EARTHMAN...
TO RESCUE QUEEN LYSSA..

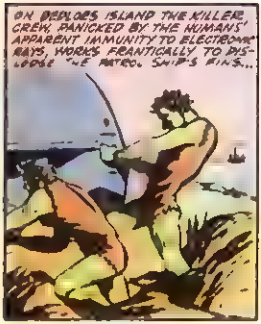
RISKING DISCOVERY BY THE KODIP PATROL, THEY CROSS THE EAST RIVER
BEYOND THE BROOKLYN SHORE, MAXSON CALLS A HALT AT A DECAYING HULK OF A STEEL FACTORY
HE LEADS HUNT INTO A LABORATORY WHERE HE HAS MADE EXPERIMENTS
MIND STRUGGLES TO GRASP THE HERMIT'S EXPLANATION OF ELECTRONIC THEORY...
BUT HE AGREES TO THROW THE SWITCHES FOR MAXSON'S INITIAL TEST OF RAY-PROOF ARMOR PLATE...
A GENERATOR THROBS WEIRDLY. THEN A DEADLY STREAM OF ELECTRONS IS FIRED AGAINST THE SHIELD.
TREMBLING WITH JOY AT HIS SUCCESS MAXSON PRESENTS A SHIELD TO HUNT WHO FORMERLY FEARED STEEL AND LEAD
A THUNDER SQUALL LASHES THE DISMAL STREETS AS THEY HASTEN TOWARD THE RIVER


SUNLIGHT RETURNS WHEN THEY EMBARK IN MAXSON'S DINGHY.
THE HERMIT STEERS FOR MIDSTREAM WHERE A STRONG EBB TIDE SWEEPS THEM TOWARD THE BAY...
AS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY COMES INTO VIEW, HUNT SPOTS LYSSA AND HER CAPTORS ON A RAFT AHEAD...
THE LOST WORLD'S GALLANT QUEEN SHUDDERS AS THE KODIPS MUTTER OMINOUSLY AND SNAP THE PROJECTORS ON THEIR ELECTRONIC PISTOLS.
BUT HUNT HOLDS AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE WHILE MAXSON'S CRAFT BEARS DOWN ON THE ENEMY...
THEIR GUNS EMPTY, THE VOLTA MEN RUSH FURIOUSLY FORWARD OFF THE BOAT...
SUDDENLY, FROM A SPACE CRAFT ON THE ISLAND, A BLINDING BEAM FLASHES ACROSS THE BAY...
THE DINGHY IS DISINTEGRATED BY THE ELECTRONIC BLAST, BUT HUNT AND MAXSON, PROTECTED BY THEIR SHIELDS, ARE BLOWN CLEAR...


UNSCATHED, THEY STRIKE OUT FOR THE RAFT. A KODIP, FALLING TO EARLY VALKEN FALLS LIKELY TO THE HERMITE'S SUDDEN STRATEGY.

AS THE HEAVY BODIES HURTLE INTO THE ICY WATER, HUNT CLAMBERS UP TO AID LYSSA...

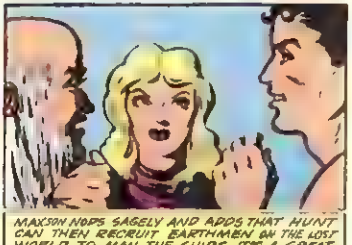
WITH SAVAGE FURY HUNT SMASHES AGAINST THE KODIP TURB... HIM INTO A BLUE GREEN GRAVE


ON REDLOBS ISLAND THE KILLER CREW, PANICKED BY THE HUMANS' APPARENT IMMUNITY TO ELECTRONIC RAYS, WORKS FRANTICALLY TO DISLODGE THE PATROL SHIP'S PLATES...

WHILE MAXSON AND LYSSA DO BATTLE THE GIANT HUNT DRAWS HIS GREAT BOW...

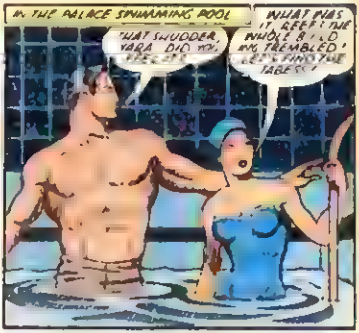
THREE ARROWS FLY IN AS FEW SECONDS... EACH SCORING A KILL...

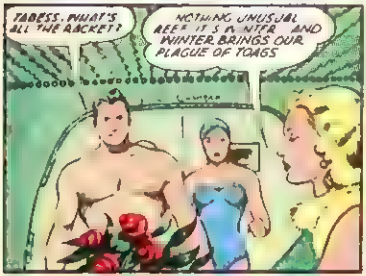
ASHORE, UNDER THE LIBERTY LADY'S SHADOW, HUNT DECLARES THAT ARMORING THIS NEW SHIP WITH MAXSON'S ANTI-RAY PLATE, THEY CAN CAPTURE SCORES OF VOLTA WARCRAFT.

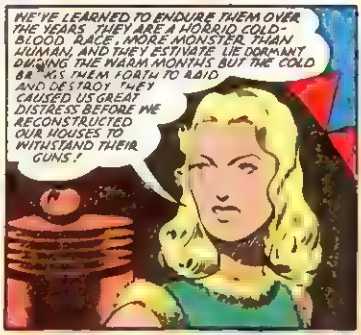

MAXSON NODS SAGELY AND ADDS THAT HUNT CAN THEN RECRUIT EARTHMEN ON THE LOST WORLD TO MAN THE SHIPS. IT'S A GREAT PLAN, HUNT AGREES, FOR THE HUMANS CAN AMASS A FLEET TO WIN FREEDOM FOR EARTH. AMAZING ADVENTURES OF THE LOST WORLD FOLLOW IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!!

REEF RYAN
by Hugh Fitzhugh
WINTER IN NEPTUNE. AND DOWN FROM THE VAST SUB-POLAR REGIONS NORTH THE ICY WINDS BLOW TERROR AS STRANGE BUG-LIKE BOATS SPEED ON A FROZEN RIVER
"ALL GUNNERS TO THEIR STATIONS! RAIDERS PREPARE! WE ARE NOW ENTERING ZALAN!"

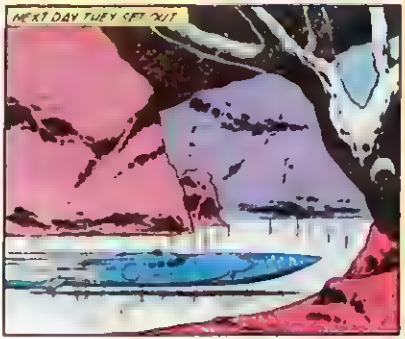
STREAKS OF SPEED THROUGH THE SHIVERY COLD


IN THE PALACE SWIMMING POOL
WHAT SHUDDER, YARA DID YOU FEEL IT?
WHAT WAS IT, DEE? I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE! I'M ALL TREMBLED!
LET'S FIND THE TABESS!


TABESS, WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?
NOTHING UNUSUAL DEE! IT'S WINTER AND WINTER BRINGS OUR PLAGUE OF TOADS

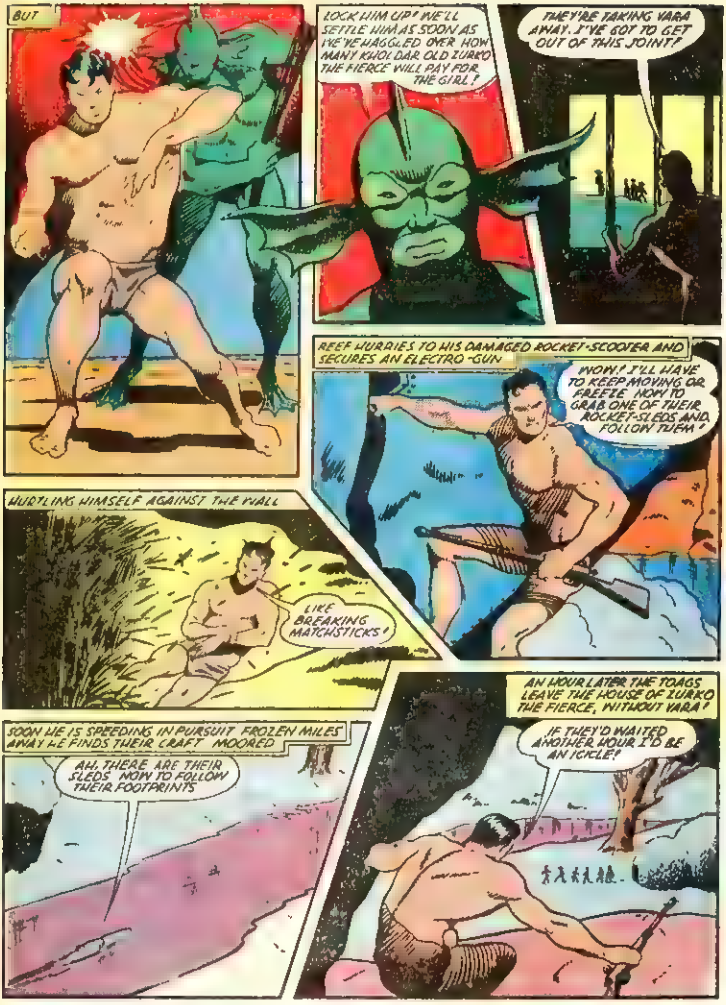

WE'VE LEARNED TO ENDURE THEM OVER THE YEARS. THEY ARE A HORRID COLD-BLOOD RACE, MORE MONSTER THAN HUMAN, AND THEY ESTIVATE LIE DORMANT DURING THE WARM MONTHS BUT THE COLD BE KIND THEM LOATH TO AID AND DESTROY THEY CAUSED US GREAT DISTRESS BEFORE WE RECONSTRUCTED OUR HOUSES TO WITHSTAND THEIR GUNS!

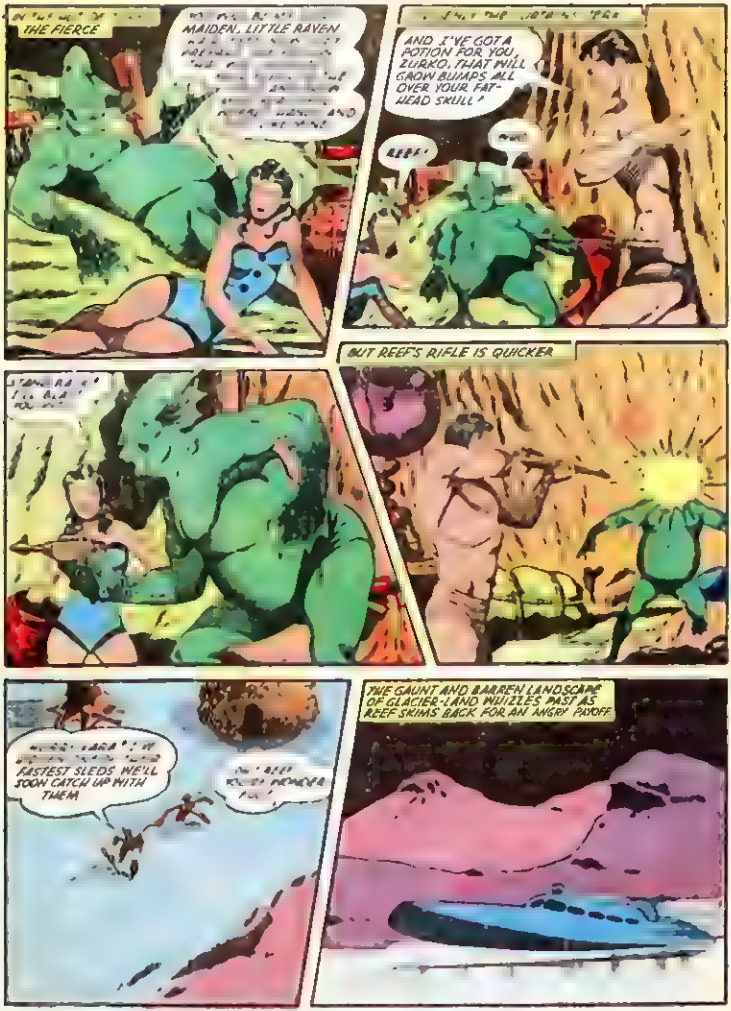
UMM... THEY LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH, EH? YOU SAY THEY LAIR UP IN THE GLACIAN WASTES? LET'S BORROW A ROCKET SCOOTER, YARA, AND GO VISITING!

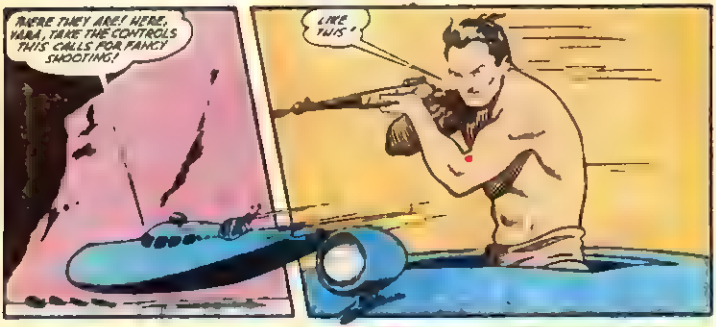

NEXT DAY THEY SET OUT

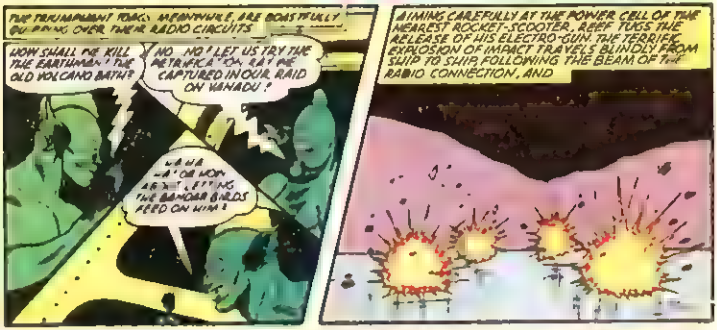
THIS IS GOING TO BE SOMETHING NEW TO US
OH, REEF! I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN!
AS THEY TURN AT A BEND OF THE STREAM
LOOK OUT, REEF, A TREE!
TO AVOID THE TREE ACROSS THE STREAM AND TOO SUDDEN A STOP THEY CRASH INTO A SNOW BANK!
REEF! THE TOAGS! THEY ARE COMING AFTER US!
SO THAT'S WHAT LAID THE LOG ACROSS THE STREAM!
TAKEN CAPTIVE, THEY ARE LED TO THE TOAG VILLAGE
FINALLY THEY ARE LEFT ALONE WITH THE CHIEF OF TOAGS
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU VENTURE SO FAR INTO THE MOUNTAINS?
TO FIND OUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO UGLY, CHUM!

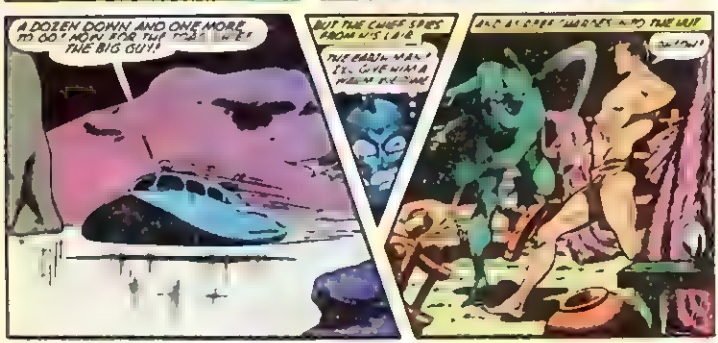
OHO! SO IT'S TROUBLE YOU WANT PERHAPS. YOU'D BETTER SEE IT OUT WITH THE DORK. STAND OFF HIS, BARKA!
SUITS ME FINE!
AS BARKA SLED AWAY REEF'S THRUST INTO A DUNGEON CHAMBER
THE DORK, EH? MUST BE THE CURE-ALL I'VE HEARD OF! WHAT'S THAT IN THE SHADOWS?
THE DORK!
BUT REEF DARTS ASIDE A LEAP, A GRAB, AND STEEL THEWED ARMS CLAMP THE GIANT REPTILE
FROM VANTAGES THE GLEEFUL TOADS WATCH THEIR SLAVER-IN MONSTROSITY SPRING
SUCH AMAZING STRENGTH! HIS WAS BROKEN THE DORK'S NECK!
UNBELIEVABLE!
HOO HOO HOO! BUT WHAT NOT THE FIGHT TOAT WAS WHAT HE'S STILL PRISONER AND A READY THE CHIEFS ARE BIDDING HIGH FOR THE GIRL
PRISONER WAIT! LET'S SEE YOU KEEP ME!
OO!

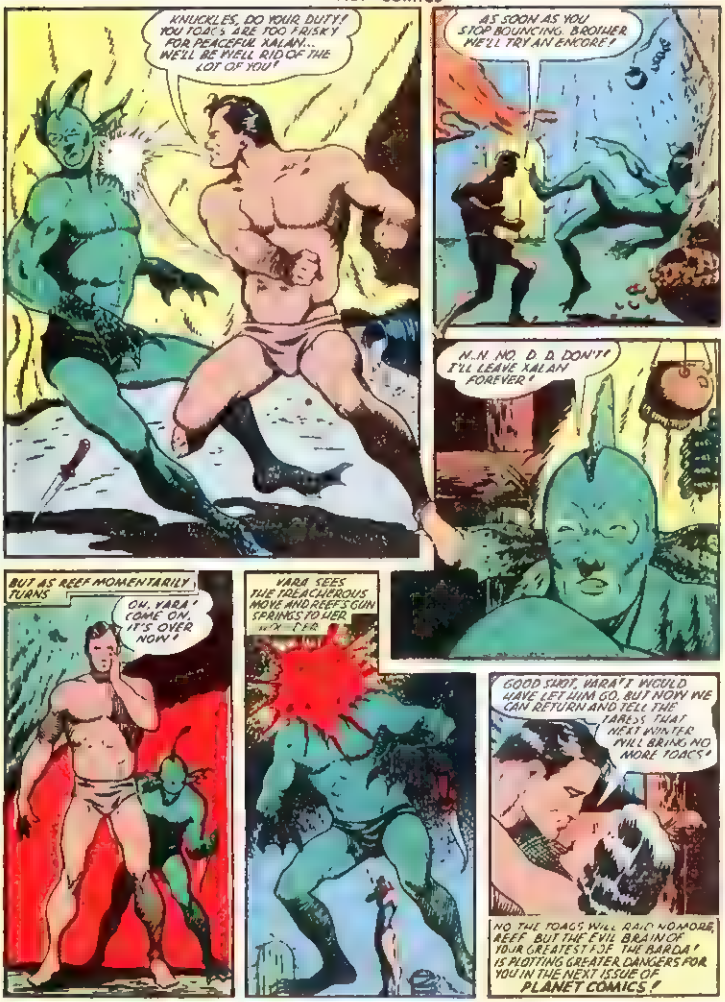

BUT
LOCK HIM UP! WE'LL SETTLE WHIM AS SOON AS WE'VE HAGGLED OVER HOW MANY KHOLDAR OLD ZURKO THE FIERCE WILL PAY FOR THE GIRL!
THEY'RE TAKING VARA AWAY. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS JOINT!
REEF HURRIES TO HIS DAMAGED ROCKET-SCOOTER AND SECURES AN ELECTRO-GUN
WOW! I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MOVING OR FREEZE NOW TO GRAB ONE OF THEIR ROCKET-SLEDS AND FOLLOW THEM!
HURTLING HIMSELF AGAINST THE WALL
LIKE BREAKING MATCHSTICKS!
AN HOUR LATER THE TOAGS LEAVE THE HOUSE OF ZURKO THE FIERCE, WITHOUT VARA!
IF THEY'D WAITED ANOTHER HOUR I'D BE AN ICICLE!
SOON HE IS SPEEDING IN PURSUIT. FROZEN MILES AWAY HE FINDS THEIR CRAFT MOORED
AH, THERE ARE THEIR SLEDS. NOW TO FOLLOW THEIR FOOTPRINTS

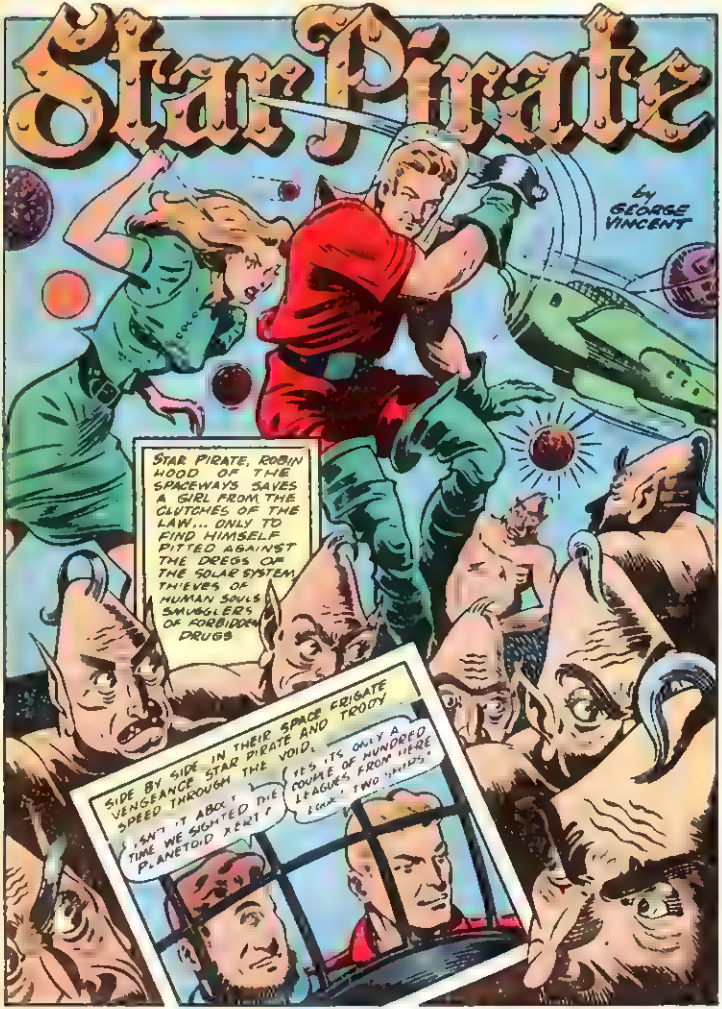

THE FIERCE
MAIDEN, LITTLE RAVEN
AND I'VE GOT A POTION FOR YOU, ZURKO, THAT WILL GROW BUMPS ALL OVER YOUR FAT-HEAD SKULL!
BUT REEF'S RIFLE IS QUICKER
FASTEST SLEDS WE'LL SOON CATCH UP WITH THEM
THE GAUNT AND BARREN LANDSCAPE OF GLACIER-LAND WHIZZES PAST AS REEF SKIMS BACK FOR AN ANGRY PAYOFF

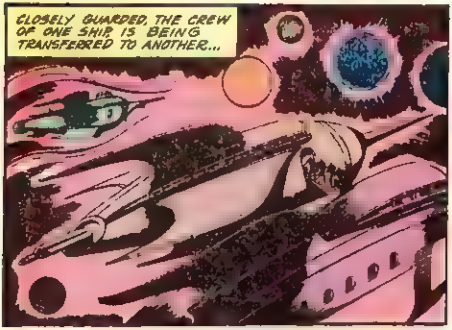

THERE THEY ARE! HERE, VARA, TAKE THE CONTROLS THIS CALLS FOR FANCY SHOOTING!
LIKE THIS!


THE TRIUMPHANT TOADS MEANWHILE, ARE BOASTFULLY GLOATING OVER THEIR RADIO CIRCUITS
HOW SHALL WE KILL THE EARTHMAN? THE OLD VOLCANO BATH?
NO NO! LET US TRY THE METHOD FOR WHICH WE CAPTURED IN OUR RAID ON VANADU!
HA HA HA! OH HOW WE ENJOY LETTING THE RAHOAR BIRDS FEED ON HIM!
AIMING CAREFULLY AT THE POWER CELL OF THE NEAREST ROCKET-SCOOTER, REEF TUGS THE RELEASE OF HIS ELECTRO-GUN. THE TERRIFIC EXPLOSION OF IMPACT TRAVELS BLINDLY FROM SHIP TO SHIP FOLLOWING THE BEAM OF THE RADIO CONNECTION, AND


A DOZEN DOWN AND ONE MORE TO GO! NOW FOR THE
THE BIG GUY!
BUT THE CHIEF SPIES FROM HIS LAIR.
THE FOOLISH MAN! I'LL GIVE HIM A PRIZE FOR THAT!
AND ALTHOUGH MARKED AND THE HIT
SUICIDE!


KNUCKLES, DO YOUR DUTY! YOU TOADS ARE TOO FRISKY FOR PEACEFUL XALAN... WE'LL BE WELL RID OF THE LOT OF YOU!
AS SOON AS YOU STOP BOUNCING, BROTHER WE'LL TRY AN ENCORE!
N..N NO, D. D. DON'T! I'LL LEAVE XALAN FOREVER!
BUT AS REEF MOMENTARILY TURNS
OH, VARA! COME ON! IT'S OVER NOW!
VARA SEES THE TREACHEROUS MOVE AND REEF'S GUN SPRINGS TO HER EYES
GOOD SHOT, VARA! I WOULD HAVE LET HIM GO, BUT NOW WE CAN RETURN AND TELL THE JABESS THAT NEXT WINTER WILL BRING NO MORE TOADS!
NO THE TOADS WILL RAID NOMORE, REEF BUT THE EVIL BRAIN OF YOUR GREATEST FOE THE RARDA IS PLOTTING GREATER DANGERS FOR YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

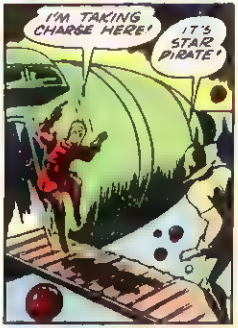

Star Pirate
BY GEORGE VINCENT
STAR PIRATE, ROBIN HOOD OF THE SPACEWAYS SAVES A GIRL FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE LAW... ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF PITTED AGAINST THE DREGS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THIEVES OF HUMAN SOULS SMUGGLERS OF FORBIDDEN DRUGS
SIDE BY SIDE IN THEIR SPACE FRIGATE VENGEANCE STAR PIRATE AND TROOY SPEED THROUGH THE VOID.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE SIGHTED THE PLANETOID XERT?
IT'S ITS ONLY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED LEAGUES FROM HERE CHUM, TWO MINUTES.


CLOSELY GUARDED, THE CREW OF ONE SHIP IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER...

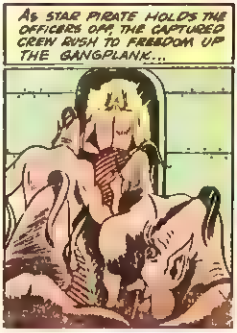
THOSE ARE THE UNIFORMS OF THE SPACE PATROL WONDER WHAT THE GAME IS? STAND BY TO CAST YOUR GRAPPLE OVER THEIR PORT FIN WHEN I GET ALONGSIDE!

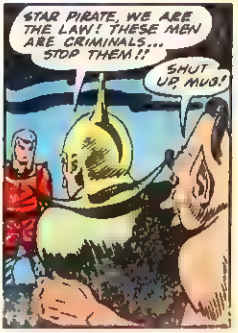
UNSEEN, STAR PIRATE LEAPS ON TOP OF THE MOORED SHIP AS TRODY MAKES IT FAST...

EVERYBODY REACH!

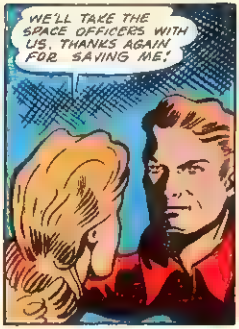

I'M TAKING CHARGE HERE!
IT'S STAR PIRATE!

OKAY, SISTER, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
JUST A LITTLE MIXUP WITH THE SPACE PATROL!.. MAKE THEM RELEASE MY MEN!


AS STAR PIRATE HOLDS THE OFFICERS OFF THE CAPTURED CREW RUSH TO FREEDOM UP THE GANGPLANK...


STAR PIRATE, WE ARE THE LAW! THESE MEN ARE CRIMINALS... STOP THEM!!
SHUT UP, MUG!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! DO I LOOK LIKE A CRIMINAL?
NO, BUT YOU'VE SURE PICKED A BUNCH OF QUEER-LOOKING PLAYMATES!

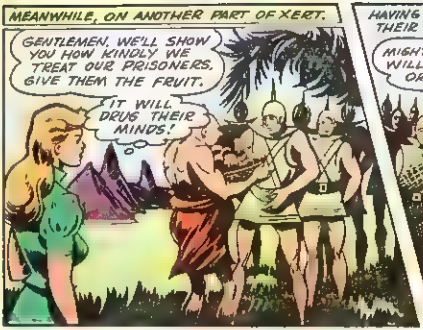

WE'LL TAKE THE SPACE OFFICERS WITH US. THANKS AGAIN FOR SAVING ME!

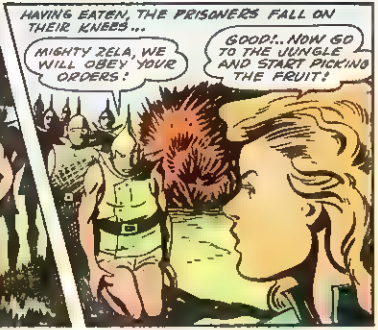
GOODBYE, PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMETIME.
I HOPE SO!

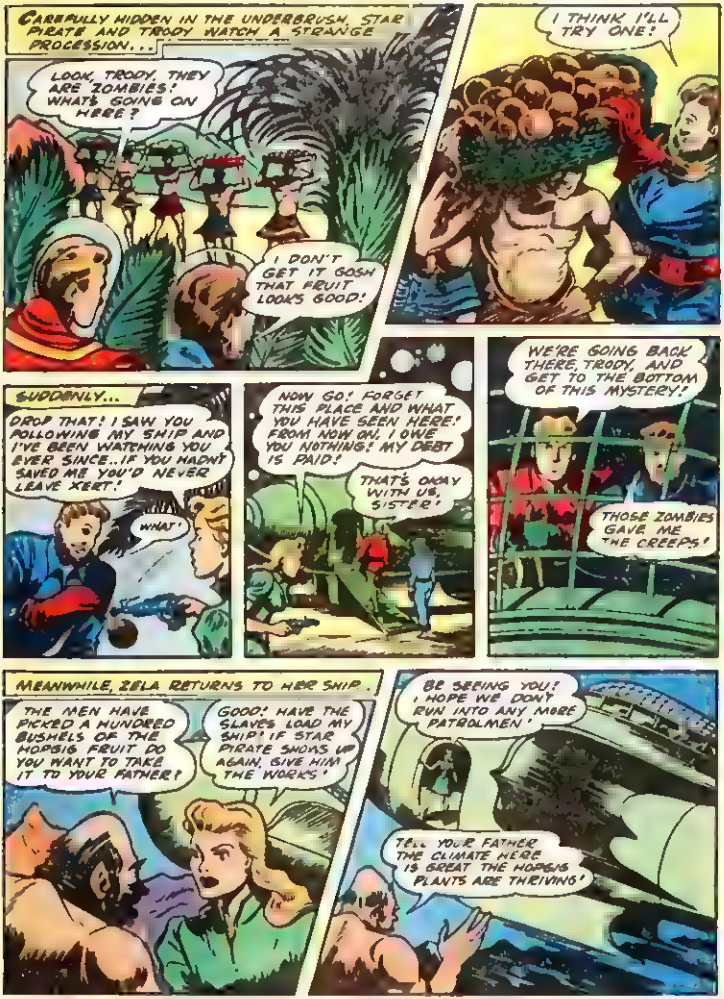
CASTING OFF THEIR MOORINGS, THE SHIPS PART COMPANY...

THE SPACE PATROLMEN CERTAINLY AREN'T FRIENDS OF MINE. BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE NO HARM COMES TO THEM. WE'LL FOLLOW!
GOOD! I THINK THAT DAME HAS SOMETHING UP HER SLEEVE.

HOURS LATER, THE VENGEANCE IS DOCKED ON THE PLANETOID...


MEANWHILE, ON ANOTHER PART OF XERT.
GENTLEMEN, WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW KINDLY WE TREAT OUR PRISONERS. GIVE THEM THE FRUIT.
IT WILL DRUG THEIR MINDS!


HAVING EATEN, THE PRISONERS FALL ON THEIR KNEES...
MIGHTY ZELA, WE WILL OBEY YOUR ORDERS!
GOOD!.. NOW GO TO THE JUNGLE AND START PICKING THE FRUIT!


CAREFULLY HIDDEN IN THE UNDERBRUSH, STAR PIRATE AND TRODY WATCH A STRANGE PROCESSION...
LOOK, TRODY, THEY ARE ZOMBIES! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I DON'T GET IT GOSH THAT FRUIT LOOKS GOOD!
I THINK I'LL TRY ONE!
SUDDENLY...
DROP THAT! I SAW YOU FOLLOWING MY SHIP AND I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU EVER SINCE...IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME YOU'D NEVER LEAVE XERT!
WHAT!
NOW GO! FORGET THIS PLACE AND WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN HERE! FROM NOW ON, I OWE YOU NOTHING! MY DEBT IS PAID!
THAT'S OKAY WITH US, SISTER!
WE'RE GOING BACK THERE, TRODY, AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY!
THOSE ZOMBIES GAVE ME THE CREEPS!
MEANWHILE, ZELA RETURNS TO HER SHIP...
THE MEN HAVE PICKED A HUNDRED BUSHELS OF THE HORSIS FRUIT DO YOU WANT TO TAKE IT TO YOUR FATHER?
GOOD! HAVE THE SLAVES LOAD MY SHIP! IF STAR PIRATE SNOOPS UP AGAIN, GIVE HIM THE WORKS!
BE SEEING YOU! I HOPE WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY MORE PATROLMEN!
TELL YOUR FATHER THE CLIMATE HERE IS GREAT THE HORSIS PLANTS ARE THRIVING!

ZELA'S SHIP SPEEDS FROM XERT..
SEVERAL HOURS LATER
GREETINGS, FATHER! I JUST BROUGHT IN A LOAD OF HOPGIS! WE CAPTURED A SQUADRON OF PATROLMEN AND HAVE THEM WORKING FOR US!
GOOD, COME WITH ME, ZELA! I'VE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
EATEN RAW, THE FRUIT MAKES ONE INTO A ZOMBIE DRIED AND MADE INTO POWDER FORM IT'S JUST A HABIT-FORMING DRUG!
THE DEMAND FOR HOPGIS IS GREATER THAN THE SUPPLY. I'M GOING TO MOVE SOME MORE PLANETOIDS CLOSER TO THE SUN SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO GROW MORE OF THE STUFF. . I'LL SHOW YOU!
WATCH!...THIS MACHINE INCREASES THE MAGNETIC PULL OF THE SUN ON A PLANETOID DERIVN CLOSER TO THE SUN. THE PLANETOID WILL BECOME WARM ENOUGH TO GROW HOPSIS ON!
YOU LOOK INTO THE SPACESCOPE WHILE I OPERATE IT!
DAD..DAD, IT'S MOVING TOWARD THE SUN!
WE'LL FLOOD THE UNIVERSE WITH THE DRUG! EVERY-ONE WILL DEMAND IT AND I'LL KEEP THE PRICE HIGH! WE'LL BE TRILLION-AIRES!! WAIT..THERE IS THE XERT BUZZER CALLING!!

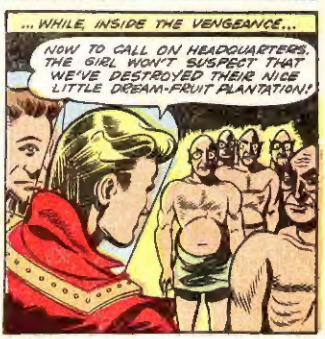
MEANWHILE, ON THE OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLANETOID OF XERT...
NOW WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS MESS!
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! WE DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT AGAIN!
SPEED UP THE PICKERS! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE ANOTHER SHIPMENT TOMORROW!
OKAY BOSS! AND I'LL MAKE SURE THEY EAT PLENTY THEMSELVES SO THEY DON'T RECOVER THEIR SENSES!
STAR PIRATE AND TRODY OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATION.
IT'S A FIENDISH DOPE-PEDDLING STUNT! LET'S CLEAN UP ON THOSE BIRDS!
..TAKE THE ONE ON THE RIGHT!
ON YOUR TOES!
WHAT!!
THAT MAKES YOU A ZOMBIE!
HEADS UP, GOON!
THEY'RE OUT!.. ROUND UP THE ZOMBIES AND LOAD THEM ON THE SHIP! I'LL SET FIRE TO THE HOPSIG GROVE!
AS STAR PIRATE AND TRODY RACE TO FINISH THE JOB, ONE OF THE OVERSEERS STAGGERS TOWARD THE PLANTATION...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
FOLLOW ME, MEN.

THEY WON'T GROW ANY MORE HOPSIG ON XERT!

WHAT A BONFIRE! LET'S GO!

MEANWHILE, THE ESCAPED HENCHMAN CALLS ZELA!
THAT FELLER, STAR PIRATE, RETURNED SET FIRE TO THE HOPSIG GROVE AND TOOK THE DOPED PATROLMEN AWAY!


...WHILE, INSIDE THE VENGEANCE...
NOW TO CALL ON HEADQUARTERS, THE GIRL WON'T SUSPECT THAT WE'VE DESTROYED THEIR NICE LITTLE DREAM-FRUIT PLANTATION!

BUT...
SO, THEY'RE COMING HERE! WE'LL MEET THEM!
AND TREAT THEM AS THOUGH WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY DID ON XERT!

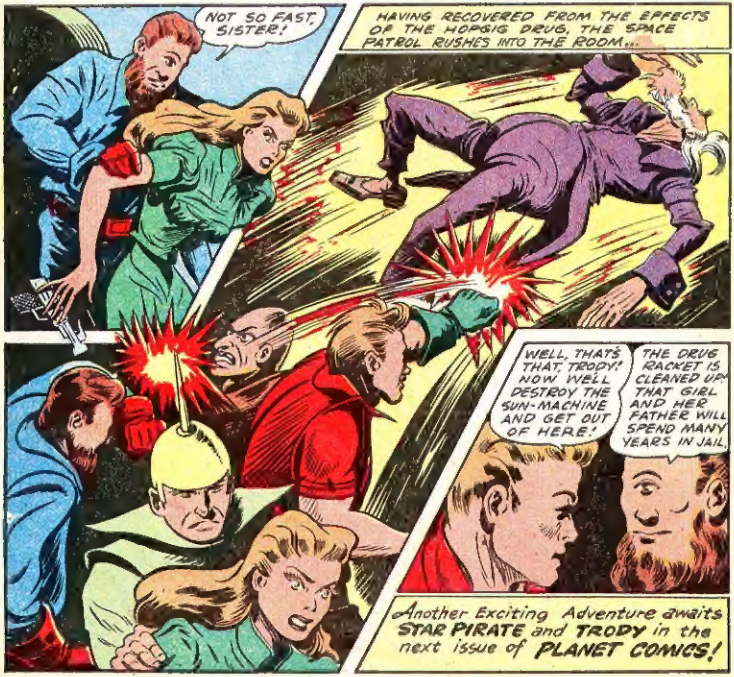
AT THE LANDING FIELD...
GREETINGS, ZELA. I TOLD YOU WE'D SEE YOU AGAIN!
THIS IS A SURPRISE! DAD, MEET STAR PIRATE! HE SAVED US FROM THE SPACE PATROL
GENTLEMEN, COME INSIDE. WE HAVE A TREAT FOR YOU

IN THE MANSION HOUSE..
HERE ARE REFRESHMENTS. MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME! WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
THEY SURE LOOK GOOD... I'M HUNGRY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
SO YOU LICKED THE PLATTER CLEAN! FOOLS, THE FOOD WAS DOPED! YOU BOYS AREN'T AS SMART AS YOU LIKE TO THINK!

NERTS ON THAT ZOMBIE STUFF! WE FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO DOPE US. OUR EATING WAS ONLY AN ACT!

SO... YOU'RE SMART AREN'T YOU... WELL TRY TO OUTSMART THIS HAMPTON 88-RAY SPECIAL!


NOT SO FAST, SISTER!
HAVING RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE HOPSIG DRUG, THE SPACE PATROL RUSHES INTO THE ROOM...
WELL, THAT'S THAT, TROPY! NOW WE'LL DESTROY THE SUN-MACHINE AND GET OUT OF HERE!
THE DRUG RACKET IS CLEANED UP! THAT GIRL AND HER FATHER WILL SPEND MANY YEARS IN JAIL.
Another Exciting Adventure awaits STAR PIRATE and TROPY in the next issue of PLANET COMICS!

HOW TO FIX ANY PART OF ANY CAR

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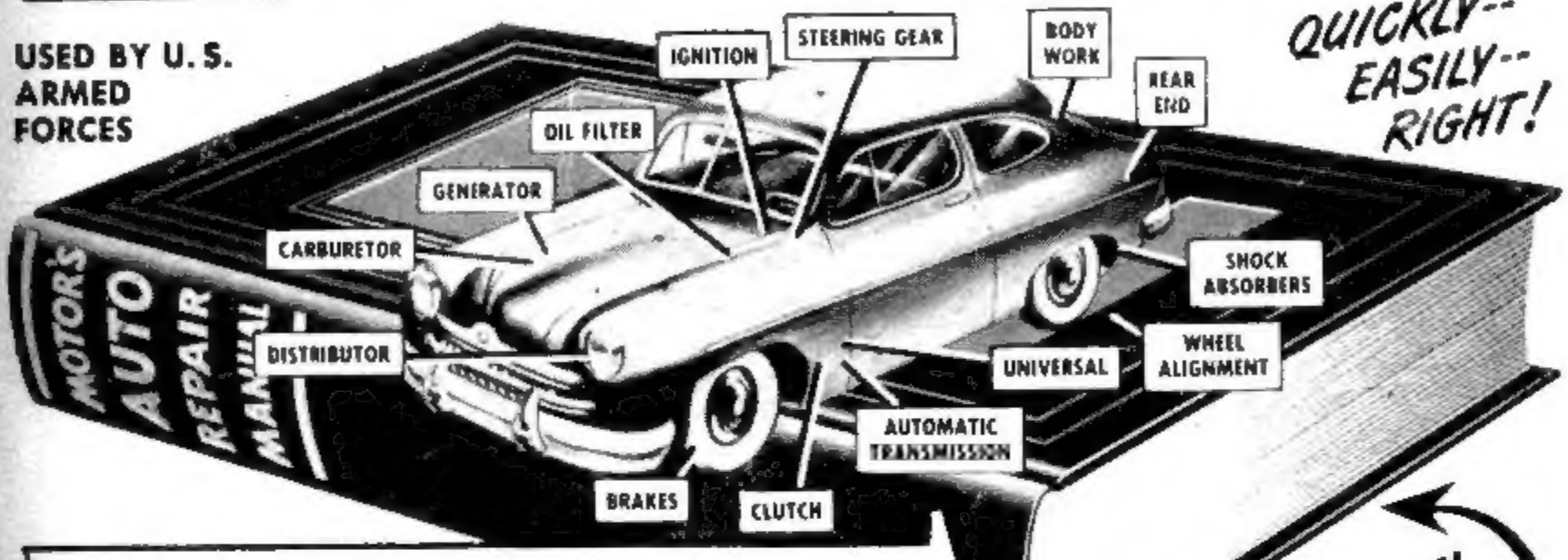

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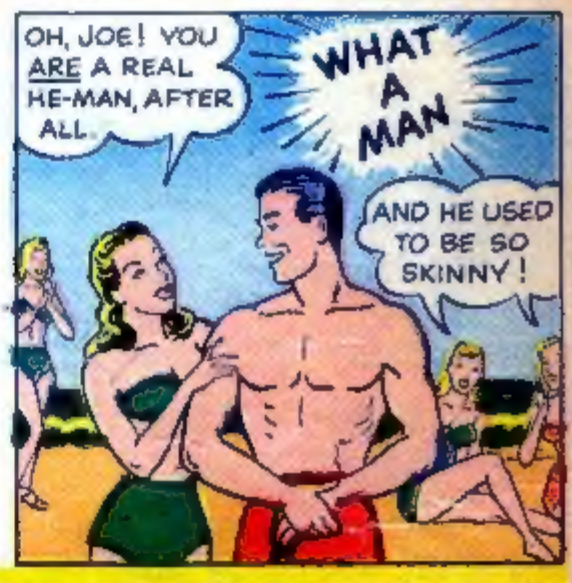

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